THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVEANDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The information has been collected from various attached and subordinate offices of the Ministry. Only the Save Grain Campaign office of this Ministry has one rented accommodation in Pune. The lease agreement is valid upto 08.10.1997. The question of revision of rent does not arise. There is no move either to construct Ministry's own building.

Welfare Scheme for Mine Workers

961. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any Specific welfare scheme for the m workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement Group Insurance Scheme and bring the mine workers under the Employees State Insurance Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government provide compensation to the workers injured in mine accidents; and

(f) if so, the details thereof together with the amount of compensation paid during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Various welfare Schemes are under operation under the Limestone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund; Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund and Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund to extend housing, health, education, recreation and other facilities to workers working in these mines in the country.

(c) to (f). According to available information, the workmen of the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. working in mines are covered under Group Insurance Scheme. There is no proposal at present to take up group insurance scheme for other mine workers or to bring them under the ESI Act. However, for employment related injuries resulting in death/disablement, the mine workers are covered under the Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923. Under the Act, compensation is paid by the employer. As the provisions of the W.C. Act are being administered by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, the details of the compensation provided during the last three years are not available.

Supply of Wheat and Rice

962. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of wheat and rice to the fair price shops by the Food Corporation of India is inordinately delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fair price shop holders who have deposited money on June 3, 1996 and June 19,1996 with FCI godowns in Delhi for the supply of rice and wheat respectively have not received the same till date;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to investigate the reasons and streamline the public distribution system;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue some instructions to the FCI to pay interest to the FPS holders for the delayed supply of items for which they had received the money; and

(f) if not, the justification therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVEANDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non-Functioning of PCOs in Rural Areas of Barmer and Jaisalmer

963. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNCATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that ninety per cent of PCOs in rural areas of Barmer and Jaisalmer District of Rajasthan are non-functional;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to put the defective equipments in working condition;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating to post dedicated staff in remote area for smooth functioning of Communications Network; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Sir, about 14% of the PCOs in rural areas of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan are reported non-functional

(b) and (c). The following steps are taken :-

(i) Departmental staff is deputed to attend the faulty PCOs.

(ii) Faulty equipment are being attended to by the manufacturers for removal of faults.

(iii) Instructions have been issued to the Department for entering into Annual Maintenance Contracts with the supplier of the equipment.

(d) and (e). Already competent staff is posted to look after the remote area communications Network. Also, specialised training is imparted from time to time as per job requirements.